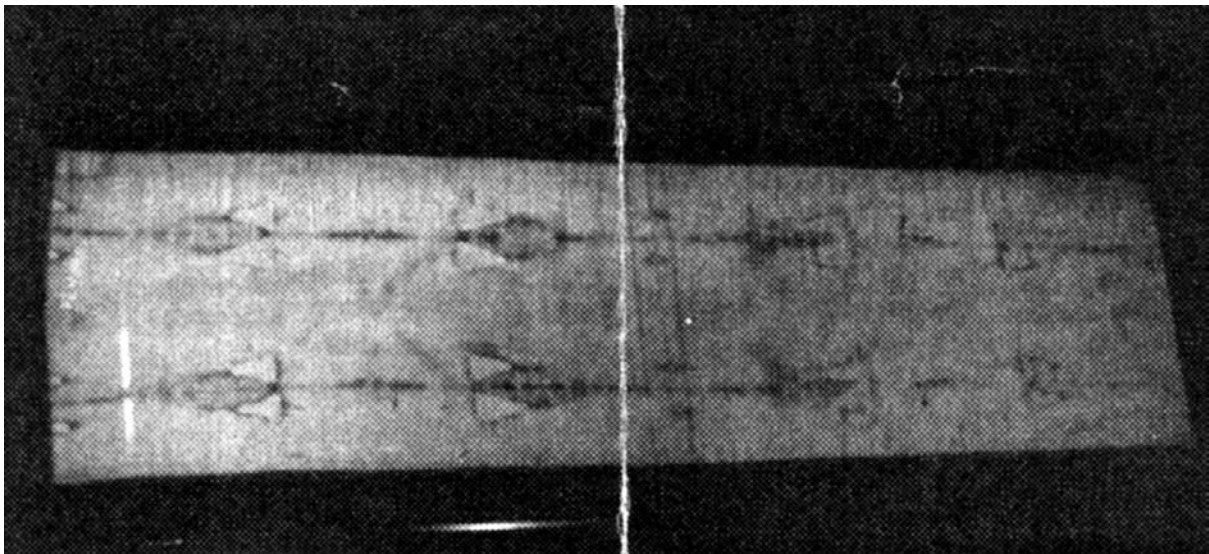


A NEWSLETTER ABOUT RESEARCH ON THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN  
**published in Australia for Worldwide circulation**  
edited by REX MORGAN, Author of several books on the Shroud  
**Issue Number 90** **AUGUST 1995**

**SPECIAL EDITION**  
**TURIN ANNOUNCES 1998 EXPOSITION**



**The Holy Shroud on display  
in Turin in 1978**  
[Pic: Rex Morgan]

## EDITORIAL

One might have thought, and perhaps those readers who know my mindset would have expected, that the 90th edition of *Shroud News* would be a celebratory, bumper issue. I am writing this in September as the production of the August issue was delayed and I so have rescheduled its content so that I can bring you this small hurried edition as quickly as possible.

What better celebration of the 90th issue could there be than the very welcome and exciting official news that the Shroud of Turin will be put on exhibition in 1998 and again in 2000. Like many other people, I have taken it as a foregone conclusion for many years that an exposition would have to take place in 1998, the 100th anniversary of the first photographs which have led us for a century to study this phenomenon, not to mention the 500th anniversary of the consecration of the St John's Cathedral in Turin, a more local matter but nevertheless of great significance in the life of Turin.

That the Pope and the Cardinal Archbishop have determined to do this twice within three years is a remarkable decision. The dates are fixed: 18 April to 31 May 1998 and 29 April to 11 June 2000. The second, of course, celebrates the end of the second millennium of Christ.

It is noteworthy that for the first time since 1988 the Cardinal has made an authoritative statement about the Shroud and the Church's position on it. Fed up with scientists and pseudo-scientists putting abroad their theories and results of tests supposedly done on fragmentary bits of the Shroud stolen in 1988 or still in people's possession since 1978 (or even earlier) the Church, which is the legal owner of the Shroud, has said a stop will be put to all the nonsense being peddled. The Cardinal has also said that he is especially concerned by the numerous crackpot theories being published and will not acknowledge their validity.

Firstly no further tests will be allowed at all on the Shroud until the bickering forces of expertise can get their act together and propose a sensible testing programme. This will disappoint those who would otherwise have submitted lengthy papers on what to do next if a scientific foray, like the one in 1978, were to be allowed again in 1998.

Secondly, in a masterstroke of objective statement, the authorities have simply dismissed the much debated and suspect "C14 tests" of 1988 by saying "The result was one that referred to a medieval fabric," the

## EDITORIAL (cont'd)

implication being, of course, that whatever the three "independent" laboratories got their hands on was probably not bits of Shroud and that this result flies in the face of almost all other known tested scientific evidence and historical consideration. This medieval characteristic, given much publicity in the early eighties, has been hotly debated ever since the announcements of October 1988 which put the Shroud aside as a matter for media attention. The results are now to be ignored, then, according to the authorities, by anyone with a serious interest in the Shroud either as an object of scientific mystery or as an item of religious significance.

Thirdly, the Church has said that someone made off with the leftovers from the pieces cut from the Shroud in April 1988 and that any tests done on them will simply not be recognised by the authorities as authentic. They have also quite rightly demanded the return of those fragments, rather as they did when Turin discovered that Gilbert Raes of Belgium still had a piece he had been given for his official research 1973 when arch sceptic Walter McCrone tried to get hold of it in Ghent. Professor Raes immediately returned it to Turin.

Fourthly, as the Cardinal has re-stated, there are two incontrovertible facts about the Shroud. In agreement with every Shroud researcher, there is, on the linen, an image corresponding to the biblical descriptions of the crucified Christ and secondly no scientist has yet been able to explain satisfactorily how the image got there. These two basic premises, especially the second one, form the basis for the whole Shroud story and its interest to millions of people around the world.

Fifthly, the Church has announced that the Turin Centre for Sindonology, long respected as the major Shroud centre in the world, will conduct an international congress based on proposals for the preservation of the cloth which is a matter many scientists and others have supported strongly in recent years.

I am of the view that the excellent decision by the Vatican to take the upper hand once again in the Shroud debate and hold the two exhibitions will again focus world attention on this ongoing mystery. Hopefully it will bring together the international Shroud community which continues to wage war amongst itself on a series of issues great and small. It may be too much to expect that all will congregate to pool knowledge and resources in the true spirit of scientific enquiry.

## EDITORIAL (cont'd)

On the other hand, since the authorities have put a stop, for the foreseeable future, to any further scientific testing, those researchers, as I have said before, who continue their work quietly into the historical and artistic aspects of the Shroud in their attempts to add to the evidence for its age and possible authenticity, should again come into ascendant focus since they have no wish to tamper with the Shroud itself or conduct any tests on it, destructive or non-destructive. I hope, therefore, that those of us particularly involved in the non-scientific aspects will redouble our efforts in the next two years to have something further to report in Turin in 1988.

As readers know, those aspects which have interested me particularly over recent years have been the Templecombe box lid which suggests that the Templars took the Shroud to England and the earliest catacomb paintings which suggest that Christ was portrayed in the First Century with features very like those on the Shroud. Later paintings under Roman influence are quite different when the Shroud had disappeared

As my mind goes back to that fascinating day in August 1978 when I entered the cathedral and first saw the Shroud the day before the official exposition opened, in the company of just a few hundred of the world media, I remember that more than three million pilgrims lined up in the next few weeks of 1978 to see the Shroud. I would be prepared to forecast that in 1998 the number will be more like twenty million. Let us not forget that in 1978 very few knew anything about the Shroud at all. Today almost everyone knows about it (even if they think it is a fake) and I should be very surprised if Turin and Italy do not reel from the impact of tourism that year, and again in 2000. The number of people who flood into a country for the regular, foreseeable, Olympic Games which they can see any fourth year is enormous. How much greater might it be then to see this amazing mystery of the Holy Shroud?

The report on my visit in July to American scientist and artist extraordinaire, Isabel Piczek, when I was one of the first people to see her latest finished work at St Anne's Chapel in Los Angeles, will have to wait for the next issue. I am indebted to Isabel for her translation of the Italian news report reproduced in this issue. I also have several very interesting and significant articles to bring to you in October. But I think you will agree that this great news transcends any other for this month and I'll make sure the size of issue 91 is back to normal.

REX MORGAN

EXHIBITION 1998 and 2000 (cont'd)

## **HOLY SHROUD TO BE EXHIBITED IN TURIN IN 1998 AND 2000**

Report on Cardinal Saldarini's press conference from *Il Tempo* 6 Sept 1995

**Translated by Isabel Piczek and edited by Rex Morgan**

### **THE SHROUD COMES TO THE PILGRIMS**

Cardinal Saldarini dismissed the likelihood of any further tests to ascertain the dating of the relic. "The scientists must be patient until the time arrives for a clear research program."

The double exhibition is the wish of the Pope. The Holy Shroud, the linen preserved in the cathedral of Turin which, according to tradition, wrapped the body of Christ, returns to be exhibited for pilgrims in 1998 from 18 April to 31 May and again in the Jubilee year of 2000 from 29 April to 11 June.

Yesterday morning it was announced by Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini, Archbishop of Turin and custodian of the Shroud, "During recent months I have written to Pope John Paul II making the suggestion of an exhibition of the Shroud within the preparation of the Holy Year, proposing two alternatives, 1998 or 2000," said the Cardinal. "And he replied to me enthusiastically, inviting me to program both dates."

The 500th Anniversary of the consecration of Turin Cathedral occurs in 1998. It will also be the 100th Anniversary of the exhibition of 1898 which was the occasion when the first photograph was taken by the Turinese Secondo Pia. That photo, in fact a negative, contributed to the road of scientific research. Cardinal Saldarini used the occasion to deny officially that there would be included in the program any new experiments on the sacred linen. He particularly denounced any talk about analysis which would have traced female DNA on the fibers of the linen or the possibility that Leonardo da Vinci produced the image by elementary experiments in photography. The Archbishop of Turin made it clear "no new removal of material from the Shroud occurred after 21 April 1988 and there should not be any residual material in the hands of a third party."

## EXHIBITION 1998 and 2000 (cont'd)

Seven years ago a piece of the linen was consigned to each of three international research institutes to allow the C14 carbon dating of the Shroud. The result was one that referred to a medieval fabric."

"Yet if there is still Shroud material in circulation," added Cardinal Saldarini, "no one has permission to have it and just has to return it since neither the Holy See nor the Cardinal recognises the validity of the results of any of these unauthorised experiments."

The Cardinal, "in a climate of mutual faithfulness with the world of scientists," invited the scientists to be patient "until the time arrives for the development of a clear research program."

On the occasion of the 1998 Exposition there will also be an international congress organised by the Centro Internazionale di Sindonologia di Torino, at which event there will be discussions about the conservation of the Shroud, which is a theme particularly dear to the heart since the researchers advise us of urgency," continued the Prelate.

"We must," underlined Saldarini, "find a method to conserve the linen before it deteriorates irreversibly and this should also involve its new location: however there is no basis of consideration which would refer to a transfer of the Shroud from Turin to anywhere else, as someone has written." The repetition of the exhibition in 2000 represents a particular lesson on the occasion of the Holy Year: a pilgrimage to a sign which is exceptionally significant. "Two facts are proposed by the Shroud," clarified the Cardinal, "which are incontrovertible: On this linen, which is unique, is imprinted the figure of a crucified man with marks of suffering and wounds corresponding to the description given in the Scriptures of the death of Christ. From the standpoint of science the Shroud constitutes an unexplained fact, an historical prodigy, of which up to now, no scientific research has yet established how the image was formed on the linen. Because of this, for the faithful, the Shroud is an icon which remains transcendent."

The last exhibition of the Shroud in Turin was in September 1978 which attracted over three million pilgrims.



American artist Isabel Piczek before the scaffolding was taken down from her latest brilliant mural "Christ with the Children of the World" at St Anne's Los Angeles, July 1995

*Shroud News* began in 1980 when Rex Morgan, author of three books on the subject of the Holy Shroud (*Perpetual Miracle*, *Shroud Guide* and *The Holy Shroud and the Earliest Paintings of Christ*) and editor of several others, began sending a few notes about current developments in the study of the Shroud of Turin (Sindonology) for a small circle of interested people in his home country of Australia. He didn't expect it to go beyond a few issues.

Today, the bulletin, now highly acclaimed, reaches subscribers all over the world and is written, produced and disseminated more quickly than any other Shroud publication in the English language. It contains information, news, articles and illustrations gathered from sources of Shroud study worldwide through Rex Morgan's extensive network of personal connections with what has been described as the "Shroud Crowd".

Rex Morgan is a frequent traveller overseas which gives him the opportunity to keep abreast of latest developments in Shroud study and research at first hand. He was present at the world media preview of the Shroud itself in August 1978 in Turin, Italy and has met and knows numerous Shroud researchers in many countries. His quest for Shroud information became, as he described it, "a passionate hobby". He took the world famous Photographic Exhibition created by Brooks Institute, California, to Australia, New Zealand, Hong Kong, Macau, and Canada and during those tours it attracted more than 600,000 visitors. The exhibition was subsequently donated by Brooks to the non-profit making organisation, The South East Asia Research Centre for the Holy Shroud (SEARCH) of which Morgan is President. He is also a Board member of the US based Association of Scientists and Scholars International for the Shroud of Turin (ASSIST) and was a member of the scientific team which conducted environmental experiments in a Jerusalem tomb in 1986 (ESSJ). He has made a number of original contributions to Shroud research has presented major papers at international Shroud conferences has written numerous articles and has given hundreds of broadcasts and telecasts on the subject in many countries.

The list of *Shroud News* subscribers continues to increase internationally and it has been described many times as one of the best available. *Shroud News* comes out six times a year. Its production is obviously privately subsidised as we request a subscription in Australia of only \$6 for six issues posted. The USA subscription is \$12 (posted airmail - there is no longer any surface mail from Australia). Postage to other countries varies. ALL back issues are available for \$1 (US or Aust) each plus postage. The famous 50th issue is \$3 plus post. Customers should note that as it costs us \$8 to negotiate each foreign cheque we request all payments be made in currency banknotes of your country or charge to Visa, Master or Amex cards.

All information and opinion in this private newsletter is published in good faith. It is edited by Rex Morgan and published by

THE RUNCIMAN PRESS, POB 86, MANLY, 2095, NSW, Australia  
(24 hour Fax No: 61 - 2 - 982 9956)